

THE RINGS OF VAALE: **HAUNTED**

**MARVEL**

**2**

WONG  
CRESTA  
ROSENBERG

STAR WARS™

# DOCTOR APHRA



*Remeroff*



STAR WARS

## FORTUNE AND FATE part 2 HAUNTED

After narrowly escaping the vengeful Darth Vader and cutting all ties to her past, rogue archaeologist Doctor Chelli Aphra is back on the hunt for the rarest, most valuable treasures in the galaxy.

Aphra and her team were hired by wide-eyed student Detta Yao to find the Rings of Vaale, mysterious ancient artifacts of untold power. For Yao, they're her ticket to academic renown. For Aphra, the rings—should they exist—could be the biggest payday of her career.

There's just one tiny but extremely dangerous detail—the insanely rich and powerful Ronen Tagge, scion of the infamous Tagge family, has his eyes on the prize. And Tagge's so ruthless that even Aphra refuses to do business with him.

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11EVN1 K0E7K



DOCTOR CHELLI APHRA

3K10  
077NKA0KA



CHUCK KARSANTAN

7V10K  
VK0



DETTA YAO

0708V10N07  
V10N0K10K 0K0K



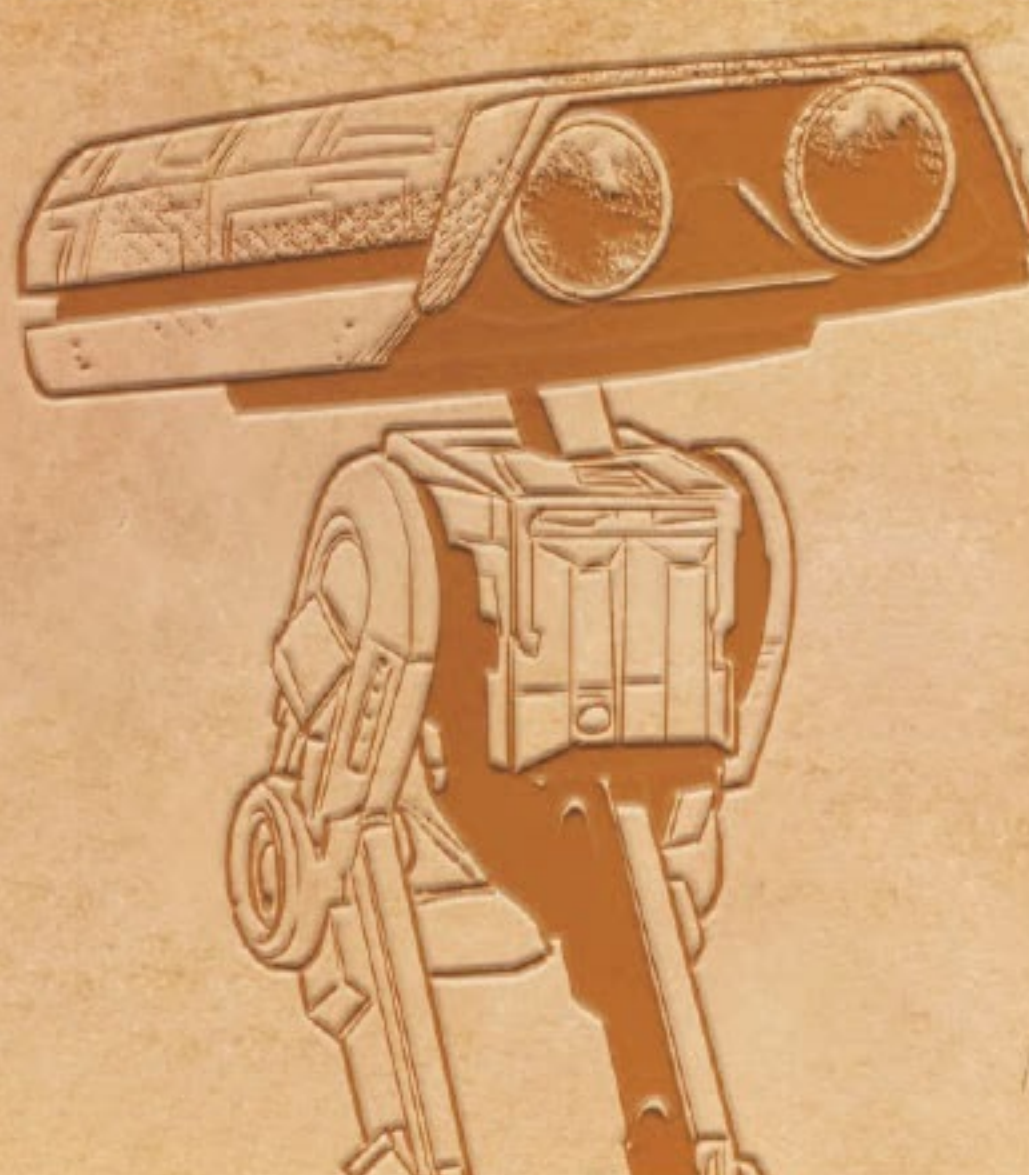
PROFESSOR EUSTACIA OKKA

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JUST LUCKY

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RONEN TAGGE

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University  
of Bar'leth.  
Years ago.

YOU'RE  
GOING TO HAVE TO  
STOP FALLING ASLEEP  
IN LECTURE.

OR WHAT?  
THE SAVA'S  
GOING TO  
FAIL ME?

I KNOW  
THE MATERIAL  
FRONT AND  
BACK.

BESIDES,  
I SAW YOU  
READING ON  
YOUR  
DATAPAD.





The Ark Angel III.  
Present day.

ARE YOU SURE  
YOU'RE RIGHT,  
APHRA? THIS IS  
THE FASTEST WAY  
TO DIANTH?

OF COURSE  
I'M RIGHT. I  
ALWAYS AM.

YOU'LL  
GET TO SEE  
YOUR CURSED  
CITY SOON  
ENOUGH.

RIGHT,  
BLACK K?

**RWWRRR.**

**BEEP  
BEEP  
BEEP**

TEE-AY?  
WHAT IS  
IT?

**FSHHZZT**

HELLO,  
PROFESSOR  
OKKA.

I TRUST  
YOU'RE WELL AND  
RECEIVING MY  
MESSAGE.

RONEN  
TAGGE?

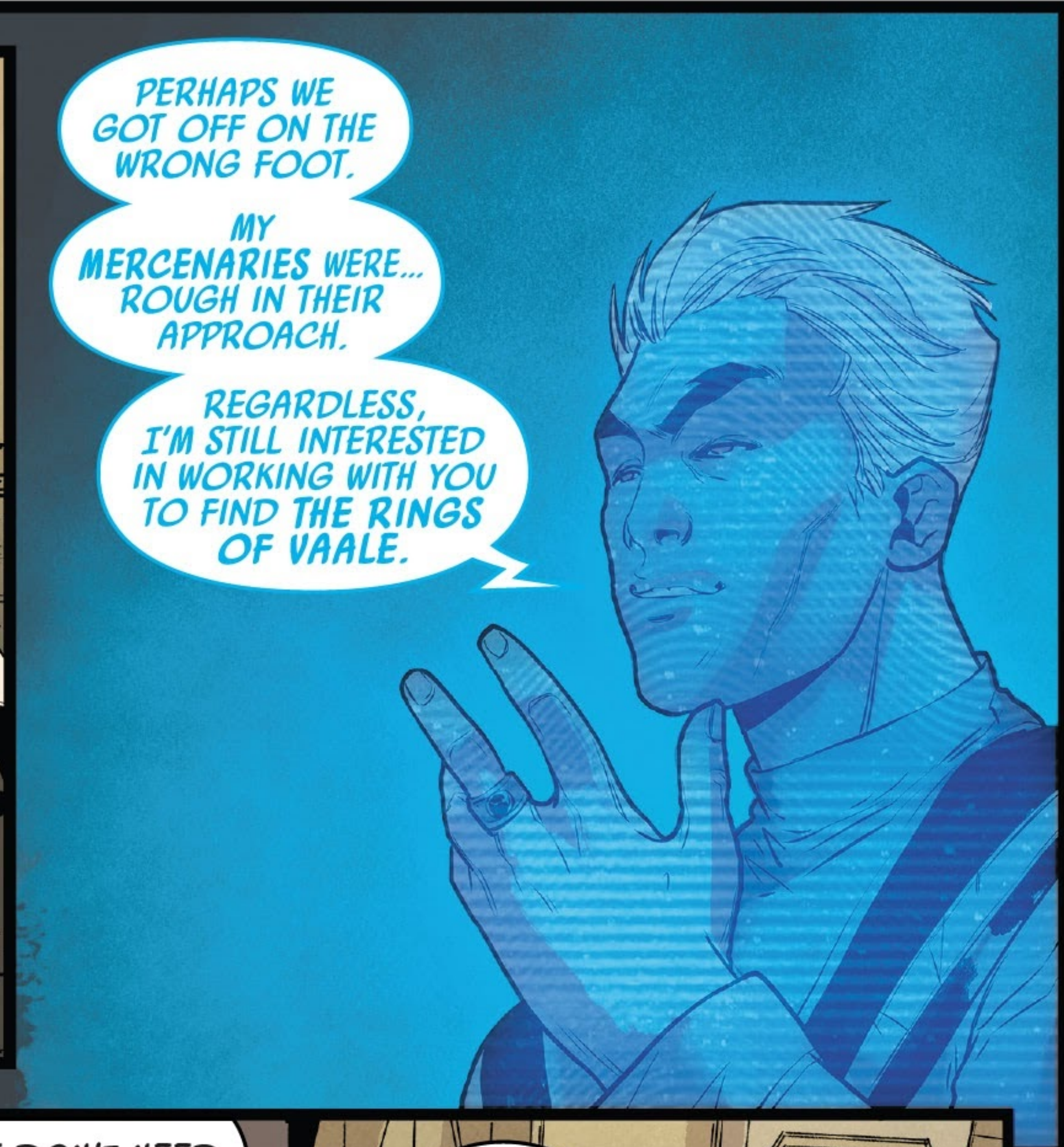




TAGGE?  
HOW'D HE  
FIND US?

RELAX. IT'S A  
PRERECORDED  
TRANSMISSION.

THE REAL  
QUESTION IS, HOW  
DID HE GET ACCESS  
TO THE PROFESSOR'S  
DROID?



PERHAPS WE  
GOT OFF ON THE  
WRONG FOOT.

MY  
MERCENARIES WERE...  
ROUGH IN THEIR  
APPROACH.

REGARDLESS,  
I'M STILL INTERESTED  
IN WORKING WITH YOU  
TO FIND THE RINGS  
OF VAALE.



IMAGINE WHAT YOU  
COULD ACCOMPLISH WITH  
THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE  
TAGGE DYNASTY'S POWER  
AND RESOURCES AT  
YOUR DISPOSAL.



WE DON'T NEED  
TO LISTEN TO  
THE REST.

WHA--

WE  
ALREADY  
HAVE **ONE LIAR**  
ABOARD THE  
SHIP.



HOWEVER,  
SHOULD YOU  
CHOOSE TO PURSUE  
THE RINGS OF VAALE  
WITH PRESENT  
COMPANY...

I'M AFRAID  
I'LL SHOW  
NO MERCY.

I WILL HAVE  
THE RINGS. AND  
I WILL DESTROY  
ANYTHING IN  
MY WAY.



PLEASE GIVE  
MY REGARDS TO  
DEAR DOCTOR  
APHRA.





SOME PEOPLE CAN'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.

HOPEFULLY TAGGE'S LOOKING FOR THE ARK ANGEL II.

MAY SHE REST IN PIECES.



WAIT, EXPLAIN THIS "DEAR DOCTOR APHRA" THING.

UGH. THAT'S A STORY AND A HALF.



WE'VE GOT TIME BEFORE WE REACH DIANTH.

ELUCIDATE.



=SIGH=

OKAY. I RAN THIS JOB FOR TAGGE A WHILE BACK.

WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR PAYMENT, WE HAD A BIT OF A... DISAGREEMENT.



MARVELOUS, DR. APHRA.

ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE I ASKED YOU TO ACQUIRE, YOU WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN THIS RARE CORAL FROM ALDERAAN'S POLAR SEA.

VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT SINCE THE PLANET'S DESTRUCTION.

"SEE, HE HAS THIS *THING* ABOUT BEING THE LAST PERSON TO TOUCH PRECIOUS ITEMS. SO HE *DISINTEGRATES* EVERYTHING VALUABLE HE CAN GET HIS HANDS ON.

"AND I THOUGHT I HAD BAD HABITS.

"I COULDN'T IN GOOD CONSCIENCE HAND OVER *PRICELESS* ARTIFACTS TO BE DESTROYED.

"I AM STILL AN *ARCHAEOLOGIST* AFTER ALL."





SO YOU REFUSED TO MAKE THE DELIVERY.

OH, NO. I LET HIM PAY ME. AND THEN I STOLE THEM BACK.

ALONG WITH A FEW OTHER THINGS TO COMPENSATE ME FOR MY TIME.



HA! CLASSIC APHRA.



EVERYTHING'S GONE!

FIND MY ARTIFACTS! FIND APHRA!

"I HEAR THAT HE EVENTUALLY BOUGHT SOME OF IT BACK ON THE BLACK MARKET.

"FOR THREE TIMES THE PRICE, OF COURSE."



TAGGE WAS A FOOL TO TRUST YOU.

AND NOW A FOOL WITH A VENDETTA.

I WON'T ALLOW HIM TO INTERFERE WITH MY RESEARCH AND DESTROY THE RINGS.



YOU ACT LIKE THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

ISN'T IT ALWAYS?



Dianth.  
The Malitoris System.

FWOOOM

WELL, WE'RE  
HERE. NOTHING  
IN YOUR WAY  
NOW.







WOW.

LOT OF WRECKAGE SCATTERED AROUND HERE. HOW HARD IS IT TO LAND A SHIP?

PROFESSOR OKKA! IS THAT--?



IT IS.

THE LOST CITY OF VAALE.

WE'RE HERE AT LAST.

Fwooom



IT'S REAL. NO ONE'S GOING TO BELIEVE THAT WE FOUND THIS.



CAREFUL, EVERYONE. NOBODY LOSE THEIR FINGERS.

THE TEXTS MENTION CARVINGS MADE FROM "LIVING STONE..."

BUT THESE ARE FAR BEYOND THE CONSTRUCTS OF UTAPAU AND BOZ PITY.

WHERE IS EVERYONE, DOC?









M-MAYBE  
THESE ARE  
CARVINGS?



IF THEY ARE,  
SOMEBODY WENT  
OVERBOARD.



**KRRWOW!**

YOU SAW  
SOMEONE?  
WHERE?

**SCUTTLE**



I HATE TO  
BREAK THE NEWS  
TO EVERYONE, BUT  
THIS PLACE IS GIVING  
ME SERIOUS  
CREEPS.

WHAT IS THAT  
SOUND?

EVERYONE,  
STICK  
TOGETHER.



WHERE'S  
PROFESSOR  
OKKA?





PROFESSOR OKKA!

DAMMIT...  
WHERE DID  
SHE GO?



LOOK!  
OVER  
HERE!

WHAT?



THE FABLED  
**WORKSHOP** OF THE  
**ARCHITECTS OF VAALE**,  
WHERE THEY MADE ALL  
KINDS OF WONDERS...  
INCLUDING THE  
RINGS.

THIS ISN'T  
JUST A MURAL--  
IT'S A **MAP**.

THAT'S  
RIGHT.  
THE  
WORKSHOP IS  
**UNDERNEATH**  
US.

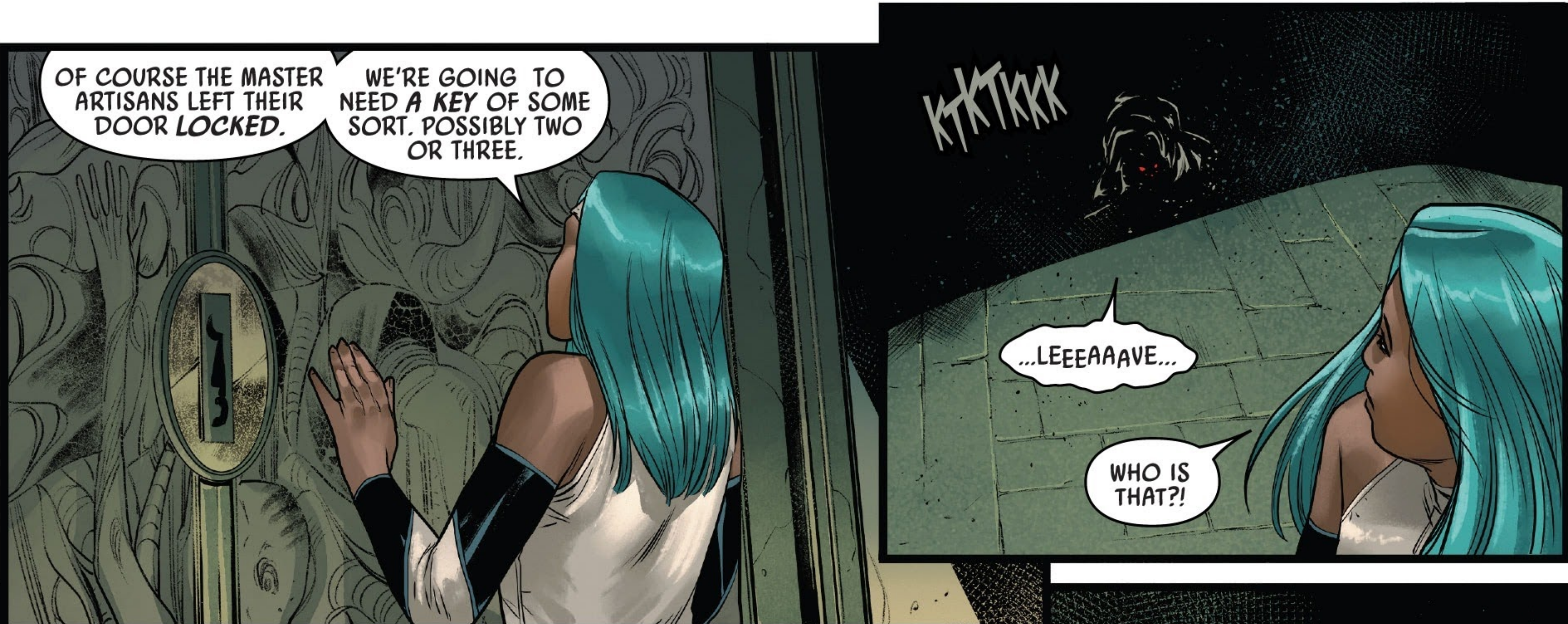




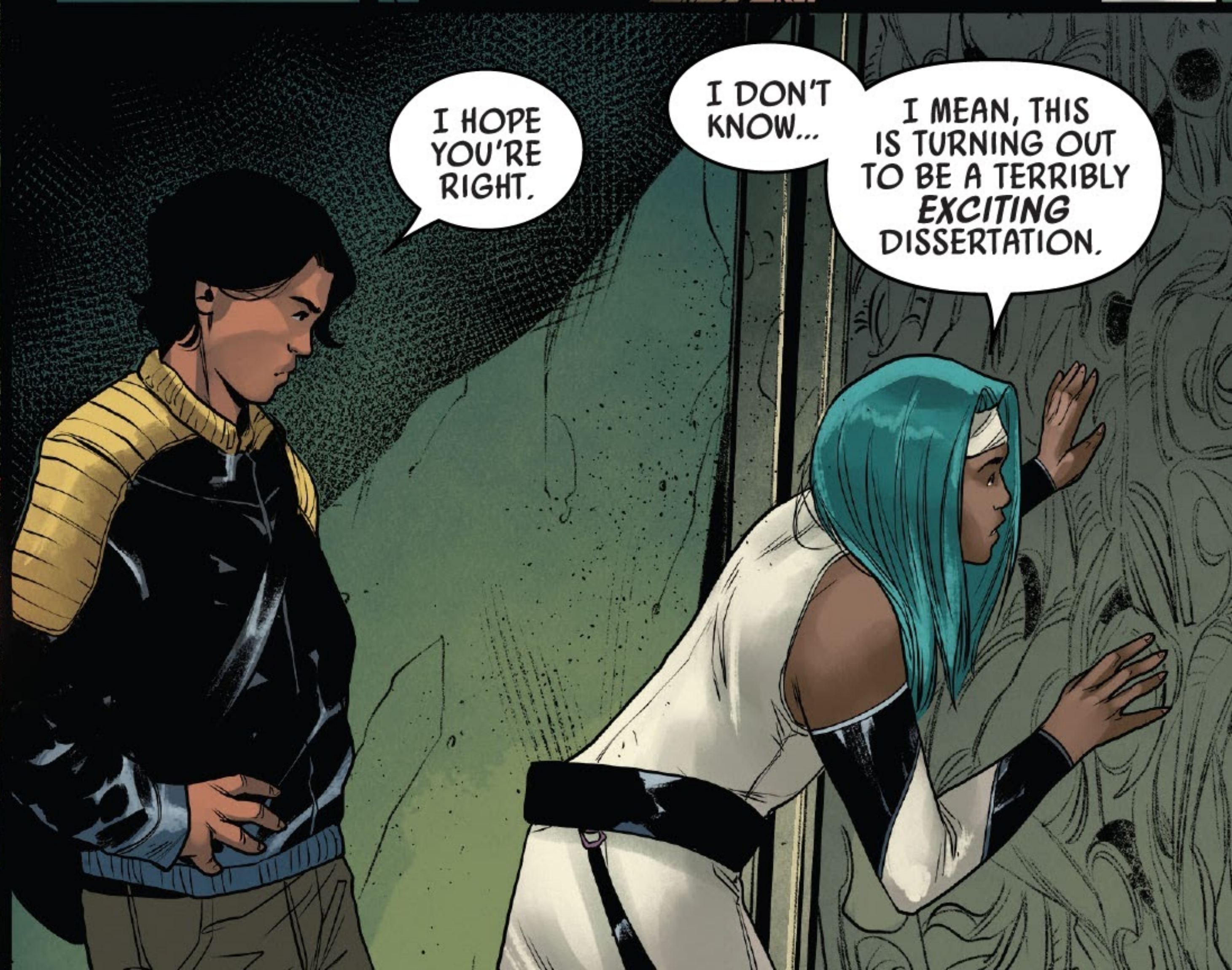
















LET'S JUST FOCUS ON GETTING THIS BABY OPEN.

HMM...IF I WERE A MASTER ARCHITECT MAKING A HORROR DOOR, WHERE WOULD I PUT THE KEY?



WRRGH.

TEMPTING, BUT NO.

WE CAN TRY BLOWING IT UP IF ALL ELSE FAILS.



MAYBE IT'S NOT AN ACTUAL KEY.

SOME OTHER KIND OF DEVICE, AND THIS IS JUST A DECOY?



THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE, BASED ON WHAT WE KNOW OF THE ARCHITECTS.

I'LL CHECK THE MURALS TO SEE IF THEY CONTAIN ANY CLUES.

I'LL COME WITH YOU.





















IT SEEMS  
WE'VE ARRIVED TOO  
LATE TO APPREHEND  
THE GOOD  
PROFESSOR.

LUCKILY, SHE'S  
NOT THE ONLY  
ARCHAEOLOGIST  
ON SITE.

NOW,  
DOCTOR  
APHRA...



...IT'S TIME  
TO LEAD US TO  
THE RINGS OF  
VAALE.

To Be Continued!



# STAR WARS<sup>TM</sup> NEXT ISSUE!

THE ADVENTURE  
CONTINUES ACROSS THE  
GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY!

## DOCTOR APHRA #3

BY ALYSSA WONG  
AND MARIKA CRESTA  
COVER BY VALENTINA REMENAR



CAN DOCTOR APHRA OUTSMART RONEN TAGGE'S  
MERCENARIES AND FIND THE RINGS OF VAALE  
FIRST? OR WILL TAGGE SCORE THE COVETED PRIZE?  
THE DARK TRUTH BEHIND THE RINGS' POWER  
COULD SPELL DOOM FOR EVERYONE!

A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY IS A LOT EASIER TO  
GET TO THAN YOU THINK! WRITE US AT [STARWARS@MARVEL.COM](mailto:STARWARS@MARVEL.COM)  
TO MAKE IT INTO A FUTURE LETTERS PAGE. MARK YOUR NOTES  
"OKAY TO PRINT."



DARTH VADER #4



BOUNTY HUNTERS #4



STAR WARS #6